The following Listing of the Claims replaces all prior versions of the claims in this application

Listing of Claims:

1-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously presented) A firefighter's helmet comprising an inner protective shell having an outer layer of impact-resisting plastics and an inner-impact-resisting layer, the inner protective shell being wearable on its own when the user is attending an incident other than a structural fire, and an outer shell adapted to fit over the inner protective shell and to be retained thereon, the outer shell being more extensive that the inner protective shell so as to cover substantially the whole inner shell to protect the user against structural firefighting risks, and being configured to be fitted to and removed from the inner protective shell by the user whilst wearing the inner shell.

17. (Previously presented) A firefighter's helmet comprising an inner protective shell configured to be worn on its own as a helmet and an outer protective shell configured to be fitted over substantially the whole inner protective shell and releasably retained thereon, comprising a retaining mechanism for retaining the inner protective shell in the outer protective shell, wherein the retaining mechanism is moveable by a user whilst wearing the inner protective shell between a first position in which the retaining mechanism engages the inner protective shell substantially to prevent relative movement between the inner and outer protective shells; and a second position in which the retaining mechanism permits relative movement of the inner and outer protective shells whereby allowing the donning or doffing of the outer shell by the user.

18. (Previously presented) The helmet as claimed in claim 16, wherein the outer protective shell has an outwardly extending brim or cape.

19. (Previously presented) The helmet according to claim 16, comprising a spacer for spacing the outer protective shell from the inner protective shell.

20. (Previously presented) The helmet according to claim 16, comprising a visor which is accommodated between the inner and outer protective shells when not in use.

21. (Previously presented) The helmet according to claim 17, wherein the retaining mechanism is resiliently biased towards the first position.

22. (Previously presented) The helmet according to claim 21, wherein the retaining mechanism is moveable by a user whilst wearing the inner shell in order to move the retaining mechanism from the first to the second position.

23. (Previously presented) The helmet according to claim 17, wherein the retaining mechanism is pivotally connected to the outer protective shell.

24. (Previously presented) The helmet according to claim 17, wherein the retaining mechanism is disposed on the outer protective shell.

25. (Previously presented) The helmet according to claim 24, wherein the retaining mechanism engages a lower edge of the inner protective shell.

26. (Previously presented) The helmet according to claim 23, wherein the retaining mechanism is pivotally mounted on an attachment mechanism which is connected to the outer protective shell, the retaining mechanism thereby being spaced from the outer protective shell.

27. (Previously presented) The helmet according to claim 26, wherein the inner helmet comprises a slot, which is engageable by the attachment mechanism such that when the retaining mechanism is in the second position the attachment mechanism can be moved through the slot whilst when the retaining mechanism is in the first position the attachment mechanism cannot be moved through the slot.

28. (Previously presented) The helmet according to claim 27, wherein the retaining mechanism engages a lower edge of the slot when in the first position.

29. (Previously presented) The helmet according to claim 26, wherein the attachment mechanism comprises a mounting for an accessory to the helmet.

30. (Previously presented) The helmet according to claim 27, wherein the attachment mechanism comprises a mounting for an accessory to the helmet.

31. (Previously presented) The helmet according to claim 28, wherein the attachment mechanism comprises a mounting for an accessory to the helmet.

32. (Previously presented) The helmet according to claim 16, comprising a mounting for attaching at least one accessory to the helmet.

33. (Previously presented) A method of protecting a firefighter comprising providing the firefighter with a helmet comprising an inner protective shell wearable on its own and an outer protective shell adapted to fit over substantially the whole inner protective shell and to be retained on the inner protective shell and causing the firefighter to wear the inner protective shell or both the inner and outer protective shells depending on the nature of the risk presented by the incident which the firefighter is attending.

34. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 33, wherein the firefighter dons or doffs the outer shell whilst wearing the inner shell.

35. (Previously presented) The helmet according to claim 16, wherein the outer shell is more extensive than the inner protective shell so as to cover the whole inner shell.

36. (Previously presented) The helmet according to claim 17, wherein said outer protective shell is configured to be fitted over the whole inner protective shell.

37. (Previously presented) A firefighter's helmet comprising an inner protective shell having an outer layer of impact-resisting plastics and an inner-impact-resisting layer, the inner protective shell being wearable on its own when the user is attending an incident other than a structural fire, and an outer shell adapted to fit over the inner protective shell and to be retained thereon, the outer shell being more extensive that the inner protective shell so as to protect the user against structural firefighting risks, and being configured to be fitted to and removed from the inner protective shell by the user whilst wearing the inner protective shell and further including a visor which is accommodated between the inner protective shell and the outer shell when not in use.

38. (Previously presented) A firefighter's helmet comprising an inner protective shell configured to be worn on its own as a helmet and an outer protective shell configured to be fitted over the inner shell and releasably retained thereon, comprising an attachment mechanism connected to the outer shell and a retaining mechanism pivotally mounted on the attachment mechanism such that the retaining mechanism pivotally connected to and spaced from the outer shell and the retaining mechanism for retaining the inner protective shell in the outer protective shell, wherein the retaining mechanism is moveable by a user whilst wearing the inner protective shell between a first position in which the retaining mechanism engages the inner protective shell to prevent relative movement between the inner and outer protective shells; and a second position in which

the retaining mechanism permits relative movement of the inner and outer protective shells to allow the donning or doffing of the outer protective shell by the user.

39. (Previously presented) The helmet according to claim 38, wherein the inner protective helmet comprises a slot, which is engageable by the attachment mechanism such that when the retaining mechanism is in the second position the attachment mechanism can be moved through the slot whilst when the retaining mechanism is in the first position the attachment mechanism cannot be moved through the slot.

40. (Previously presented) The helmet according to claim 39, wherein the retaining mechanism engages a lower edge of the slot when in the first position.

41. (Previously presented) The helmet according to claim 38, wherein the attachment mechanism comprises a mounting for an accessory to the helmet.

42. (Previously presented) The helmet according to claim 39, wherein the attachment mechanism comprises a mounting for an accessory to the helmet.

43. (Previously presented) The helmet according to claim 40, wherein the attachment mechanism comprises a mounting for an accessory to the helmet.